

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02
FAA-00 SSO-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 HEW-06 PA-02 USIA-15
PRS-01 SP-02 /075 W

-----013617 201602Z /44

P R 201444Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6799

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 4459

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: EL-AL THREATENING TO STOP FLIGHT SERVICES IN SHOWDOWN WITH
MAINTENANCE CREWS

1. EVEN BEFORE THE NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT IS INSTALLED, SEAMEN, AIR CONTROLLERS AND NOW GROUND CREW MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES HAVE THREATENED WITH STRIKES AND SLOWDOWNS. TOUGH GOVERNMENT AND COMPANY REACTIONS IN THE CASE OF ZIM COMPANY SHIP CREWS AND THE AIR CONTROLLERS RESULTED IN RESUMPTION OF WORK, FOLLOWING PROMISES THAT THE CASES OF THE AGGRIEVED WORKERS WILL BE FURTHER REVIEWED. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF EL-AL GROUND CREWS THE CASE REMAINS AT A STAND-OFF.

2. THE OSTENSIBLE ISSUE IS THE REFUSAL FO GROUND CREW EMPLOYEES TO WORK ON MORE THAN TWO SABBATHS PER MONTH. REPORTEDLY THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GROUND CREWS IS TO REDUCE THEIR CURRENT WORK SHIFTS FROM EIGHT TO SIX HOURS IN COMPENSATION FOR THEIR FREQUENT NIGHT, WEEKEND,
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AND HOLIDAY DUTIES. REDUCTION OF THEIR STANDARD WORK DAY WOULD ALSO ASSURE THE WORKERS HIGHER OVERTIME PAY. OVER THE WEEKEND, 30 MECHANICS FAILED TO REPORT TO WORK, FORCING EL AL TO REDUCE ITS DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE BY FOUR FLIGHTS. MANAGEMENT ORDERED THE MEMBERS WHO ABSENTED THEMSELVES DISMISSED BECAUSE THEIR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT WORK WAS A VIOLATION OF

THEIR CONTRACT. THE WORKERS CLAIM THAT THE COMPANY HAD NO RIGHT TO FIRE THEM, SINCE WORK ON THE SABBATH CAN ONLY BE VOLUNTARY, NOT OBLIGATORY UNDER THE LAW.

3. MANAGEMENT HAS ASKED HISTADRUT TO APPROVE THE DISMISSAL OF THE WORKERS. IF HISTADRUT DOES NOT APPROVE THE DISMISSAL, A PLANNED STRIKE OF ALL GROUND CREW MEMBERS THE WEEK END OF JUNE 24-27 WOULD THEN BE CONSIDERED LEGAL AND COULD BECOME THE FIRST OPEN CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT AND THE HISTADRUT. IRONICALLY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUND CREW MAINTENANCE WORKERS (KOHAVI) IS A LIKUD MEMBER WHO ALLEGEDLY HOPES TO DEMONSTRATE THAT LIKUD CAN SETTLE CONFLICTS BETTER THAN THE ALIGNMENT AND WILL PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE WORKERS. MANAGEMENT, IN TURN, LOOKS TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THIS A TEST CASE OF ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD LABOR CONFLICTS.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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